

CD99-54-55



Faculty Artist Series

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

PATRICIA PARR, PIANO

SCOTT ST. JOHN, VIOLA

Friday, October 8, 1999 at 8 p.m.

Walter Hall

FACULTY OF MUSIC

Presents

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Geoff Nuttall, violin
Barry Shiffman, violin
Lesley Robertson, viola
Marina Hoover, cello

Patricia Parr, guest piano
Scott St. John, guest viola

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

String Quintet in G minor, KV 516

Allegro
Menuetto (Allegretto)
Adagio ma non troppo
Adagio-Allegro

INTERMISSION

Antonin Dvorak
(1841-1904)

Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op. 81

Allegro, ma non tanto
Dumka: Andante con moto
Scherzo-Furiant: Molto vivace
Allegro

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Meet the Artists



St. Lawrence String Quartet

Eleven years ago, four vibrant musicians joined forces to create the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Since that time, rave reviews have followed them through tours around the world. *Le Monde* of Paris called them "a quartet of stars." In a recent review in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, one critic hailed, "here is an ensemble that plays with energy and fearless adventurousness." Since its founding in 1989, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has proven it possible to entertain a wide range of audiences while maintaining the highest level of musical interpretation and technique.

As part of its exclusive multi-record contract with EMI Classics, the St. Lawrence String Quartet recorded a thrilling rendition of Schumann's Quartets Nos. 1 & 3, released in May of 1999. As the musicians journey to the Golden State's Stanford University, where they have been appointed to the faculty, they prepare for a touring season that encircles the world. Taking Europe and America by storm, they will play in Germany in the fall, and in many of the major music capitals of the United States throughout the season. Never a group to forget its roots, the St. Lawrence will also appear in the major venues of Canada. Nostalgia and a generous program of Canadian support keep this quartet's home always in mind. Support from The Canada Council Touring Office, the Ontario Arts Council and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts allow the St. Lawrence to continue performing across the globe.

The quartet derives its name from the great St. Lawrence River, which provides a 2,342-mile link between Canada and the United States. But this quartet is unquestionably Canadian at heart. Second violinist Barry Shiffman was born and bred in Canada, having attended the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto. Born in Texas but drawn to Ontario, first violinist Geoff Nuttall studied at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto. Crossing the other way, after graduating from Canada's University of British Columbia, violist Lesley Robertson received her advanced degrees from the Curtis Institute and The Juilliard School. Cellist Marina Hoover earned degrees from both the Curtis Institute and Yale University. Both Lesley and Marina are natives of Edmonton.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet has strong ties to both its countries of heritage. Since its inception in Canada, the quartet studied in a program jointly sponsored by the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music. As the quartet matured, the musicians crossed the border to the United States as the first quartet to participate in a two-year residency program at the Hartt School of Music at Hartford University. There they received intensive coaching with the renowned Emerson String Quartet. They went on to The Juilliard School, where they served as "Graduate String-Quartet-in-Residence" from 1992-94. At Yale University, from 1994-96, they were teaching assistants to the eminent Tokyo String Quartet. They have been Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Toronto and are now Visiting Artists.

The members of the St. Lawrence String Quartet have helped to create innovative programs introducing music to people throughout North America. In Kansas, they joined with Robert Kapilow and the Ying String Quartet to create an original and extremely successful yearlong program, *Music-Connection*, for the Kansas City Friends of Chamber Music. With a similar educational goal in mind, other residency programs were developed for the Disney Institute in Orlando

and the Carnegie Hall Foundation in New York City.

Success in North America has not prevented the St. Lawrence String Quartet from receiving international recognition. In 1992, the ensemble won the Fourth Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Auditions. Critically acclaimed debuts include not only those in New York City at the 92nd Street Y and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., but also at the Paris Opera. In October 1993, news of the quartet reached the White House, when at the invitation of Isaac Stern and Young Concert Artists, the quartet performed for the President and Mrs. Clinton during an evening honoring the recipients of the National Medal of the Arts. The quartet's international successes include a past tour in Japan and debuts in some of the most renowned musical sites in Europe, such as Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and London's Wigmore Hall. Return engagements are not new to the Quartet members, as they have returned to Paris and Amsterdam, including to the Concertgebouw, Radio France, and Théâtre de la Ville. Their broad appeal has taken them to festivals across Europe, such as the Turku Festival in Finland and the Festival Consonances in St. Nazaire, France.

On the North America circuit, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has performed not only in Lincoln Center's Great Performances series and the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City, but also in Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, La Jolla, Montréal, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Banff, Edmonton and Vancouver. The Quartet has enjoyed playing in celebrated American music festivals, including the Spoleto USA Festival in Charleston, South Carolina, SummerFest La Jolla in southern California, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in New Mexico, Newport Festival in Rhode Island, and the Rockport Festival in Massachusetts.

In addition to performing works from the great classical repertoire, the St. Lawrence String Quartet is actively involved in commissioning and performing new works. Composers such as Patrick Cardy, Christos Hatzis,

Osvaldo Golijov, Jonathan Berger, John Hale and R. Murray Schafer work with the quartet, writing new works, some incorporating multi-media collaborations, especially for them.

Through generous local sponsorship, enthusiastic audiences, and musical excellence, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has earned a place at the top of its field. The natural talent, youthful exuberance and unique musical understanding of each member contributes to the artistic unity that continues to captivate audiences along the St. Lawrence River, across the oceans, and around the world.

Visit the St. Lawrence String Quartet on the Internet at www.slsq.com

Patricia Parr, piano

Since her debut with the Toronto Symphony at the age of nine, Canadian pianist Patricia Parr has been soloist with major orchestras including those of Toronto, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh under such conductors as Eugene Ormandy, William Steinberg and Walter Susskind. Internationally renowned for her sensitivity and the integrity of her playing, her outstanding qualities as a chamber musician have resulted in invitations to numerous festivals including the prestigious Marlboro Music Festival and collaborations with many ensembles, among them the Guarneri, Orford and Vermeer String Quartets. She has toured Europe, Australia, Mexico, the United States and Canada, and frequently performs as a duo recitalist. Her recordings appear on the CBC, Centrediscs and Summit labels.

Ms. Parr is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Isabelle Vegerova and Rudolf Serkin. Since 1974, she has been a professor at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music, teaching piano and chamber music.

Scott St. John, viola

Canadian-born Scott St. John has captured the attention of the musical world through his riveting and virtuosic performances on violin and viola. An "*electric collaboration*" is how the Cincinnati Enquirer described his performances with the Cincinnati Chamber

Orchestra under the direction of Keith Lockhart on their dual triumphs in Cincinnati and New York. *"Brimming with extroverted spirit"* is how the Philadelphia Inquirer praised this charismatic artist. But his exciting talents always serve the music, as the Pittsburgh Press has noted, *"he is a musician of impeccable taste and natural instincts. He lets the music do the talking"*.

His great success with the Toronto Symphony in 1996/97 led to an immediate re-invitation for 1997/98 with the orchestra's Music Director, Jukka-Pekka Saraste. As viola soloist, he has performed Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with the Brandenburg Ensemble in collaboration with Jaime Laredo. St. John also played viola with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra under Keith Lockhart.

An avid chamber musician, St. John performs with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York, the Academy Chamber Players in Philadelphia, "Musicians from Marlboro", at the Seattle Chamber, Spoleto, Vancouver and Angel Fire (NM) Music Festivals and at European festivals including France's Evian Music Festival and the Spoleto Festival in Italy. From 1994-1997 Scott was founder and Artistic Director of Millennium, and this past season his Chamber Music Company launched a new series at New York City's Merkin Hall. Deeply committed to education and outreach, St. John employs his easy communication skills to connect with and peak the curiosity of school kids and adults alike.

Born in London, Ontario, St. John began his violin studies at age three with Richard Lawrence and subsequently worked with Gerard Jarry in Paris and David Cerone of the Cleveland Institute of Music. He studied viola with Ralph Aldrich of the University of Western Ontario and Robert Vernon, principal viola of the Cleveland Orchestra. In 1990, St. John graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music where he studied violin with Jascha Brodsky and Arnold Steinhardt, and chamber music with Felix Galimir. St. John has recently been appointed Assistant Professor of Violin and viola at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.



Dr. Arthur Plettner
1904-1999

Imagine perfect resonance. A chord is struck, but never fades, sustained forever. Arthur Plettner graduated from the Faculty of Music many years ago and now, because of his generosity, is helping students that have come after him. When Dr. Plettner made a note of remembering the Faculty of Music in his Will, he created an endowment fund that will provide enduring financial support to gifted graduate and undergraduate students in financial need wishing to study at the Faculty of Music. Thank you Dr. Plettner.

For more information on Planned Giving please contact Director of Development Ginny Medland Green in the Faculty of Music by calling 946-3145.

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Scott St. John, guest violin
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PIANO

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Friday, Feb 11, 2000 at 8 p.m.

Program TBA

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CELLO & VIOLIN

Friday, Feb 25, 2000 at 8 p.m.

Program TBA

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Friday, Apr 7, 2000 at 8 p.m.

Program TBA

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